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Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HEW-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O.: 11652 N/A
TAGS: SCUL, NESCO, US, UK, CA, GW, IT.
REF: LONDON 18518, ARNDT/STRAUS TELCON NOV 17.

1) CONSULTATIONS IN LONDON INCLUDED REPS OF HMG AND BRITISH COUNCIL FOR UK, CAN EMB AND AUCC FOR CANADA AND CAO AS OBSERVER FOR FRG. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT ARTICLES 3 AND 5, AND POSSIBLY OTHER ARTICLES, OF MEDITERRANEAN CONVENTIONS NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR EUROPEAN REGIONS CONVENTIONS. THERE WAS ALSO SOME SHARING OF FRG CONCERN, REPORTED PARA 1 REFTEL, THAT "BACK-DOOR" APPLICATIONS OF MEDITERRANEAN CONVENTIONS MIGHT POSE DIFFICULTIES FOR OTHER EC PARTNERS.

2) THERE WAS GENERAL CONSENSUS ON PROPOSITIONS FORWARDED BY CAN EMB REP (UNDER INSTRUCTION) THAT "TIME WAS NOT RIPE" FOR EUROPEAN REGIONS CONVENTION AND THAT INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT SHOULD BE SOUGHT.

3) QUESTION THEN AROSE ON NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN. REGARDING MEDITERRANEAN CONVENTION, BRITISH WELCOMED FRG
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CONSULTATION INITIATIVE AT BRUSSELS AND ARE INSTRUCTING

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UK EC REPS TO JOIN IN THESE CONSULTATIONS. TO DETERMINE WHAT, IF ANY, POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS MIGHT RESULT FROM INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT EUROPEAN REGION CONVENTIONS,

CONSULTATIONS IN BRUSSELS AND STRASBOURG SHOULD RESULT IN READING ON ATTITUDES REMAINING NON - SOVIET BLOC EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. IT WAS AGREED UK AND FRG WOULD TAKE THESE SOUNDINGS AND FURTHER ADVISE US AND CANADA.

4) FOR ROME: AS FOR ITALIAN QUERY ABOUT POSSIBLE ALTERNATE LANGUAGE FOR MEDITERRANEAN CONVENTION, WE SEE GREAT VALUE IN REFERRING ITALIANS TO BRUSSELS CONSULTATIONS. LONDON MEETING DID SUGGEST THAT LANGUAGE CONTAINED PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH OF SECTION 4(B) OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT (DEPARTMENT OF STATE PUBLICATION 8826, P. 128) IS AS FAR AS US-UK-CANADA-FRG WILLING TO GO AND SUBSTITUTION THIS LANGUAGE FOR CURRENT PARA 3 OF MEDITERRANEAN CONVENTION MIGHT BE CONSIDERED. NO SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR PARA 5 SEEMS POSSIBLE AND THIS PARA MIGHT BEST BE DROPPED. WHILE YOU MIGHT MAKE THESE SUGGESTIONS AVAILABLE, WE BELIEVE DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT IN EC CONTEXT DEFINITELY PREFERABLE TO BILATERAL APPROACH AND YOU SHOULD INDICATE TO GOI OFFICIALS THAT FRG AND UK WILL BE SEEKING CONSULTATIONS THERE.
ARMSTRONG

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